

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner indicated that the publication dates of three documents disclosed by Applicant did not conform to the normal convention for 1449 submissions. The Carroll and Khunwaja references submitted the Application on October 8, 2001 were cited by the European Patent Office in a PCT search report for a related U.S. patent application now Patent 6,424,737; Applicant submitted the references as they were received from the EPO. Applicant presumes the hand annotations were made by the EPO and that they show the correct publication dates. Additionally, the Carroll reference submitted in October is the same reference previously submitted by Applicant on September 20, 2001 and the hand annotated date matches the publication date evidence submitted in September. With regard to the Wallis reference, Applicant is submitting a copy of the full listing from the Library of Congress Online Catalog that shows the copyright date of the book as 1988, which is the same date given on the reference submitted by Applicant in the September.

Furthermore, all the references mentioned in the specification were separately cited by Applicant in September and their entries on 1449 form were marked as considered by the Examiner on July 30, 2003.

Amendments

Revisions to the Specification and Drawings

The Examiner requested correction of certain errors in the specification and drawings. In response, Applicant has amended the specification accordingly. Applicant also has deleted a duplicate phrase on page 17. In response to the Examiner objection to Figure 5, Applicant has amended the description of Figure 5 on page 19 to refer to the single point 501. The amendment to the description of Figure 5 is supported *intra alia* in the paragraphs starting at line 13 of page 19, in which geometries of increasing dimension are described. In response to the objection to Figure 6, Applicant is submitting a substitute sheet of drawings for Figure 6. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which they each originally depended. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 1 and 6, and placed in independent form. Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 7-8 are now in condition for allowance, and request allowance of said claims.

New Claims

New dependent claims 9-14 have been added to claim additional aspects of the invention. Applicant respectfully submits claims 9-14 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claims 2 and 5 from which they depend.

SUMMARY

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.


Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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